

Letter from E.D. Easton to Fred DeLand, November 13, 1912

EXECUTIVE OFFICES American Graphophone Company. Columbia Phonograph Company, Sole Sales Agent. DIRECTORS. GEO. W. LYLE, EDWARD D. EASTON, F. J. WARBUTON, PRESIDENT EDWARD D. EASTON, GEORGE W. LYLE, WM. M. JOHNSON, VICE PRESIDENT TIMOTHY D. MERWIN, THOS. R. WHITE JR F. J. WARBURTON, JOHN J. PHELPS, VICE PRESIDENT PHILIP T. DODGE, EDWARD V. MURPHY, MARION DORIAN, CHAS. W. COX, TREASURER HENRY A. BISHOP, C. W. WODDROP, EDWARD N. BURNS, SEC'Y ASS'T TREAS. DAVID ST. JOHN, Factory: American Graphophone Company, BRIDGEPORT, CONN. CHAS. A. L. MASSIE. CABLE ADDRESS, "COLPHO, NEW YORK." **154 Nassau St.**, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT. Tribune Building. New York City, Nov. 13=1912. Mr. Fred DeLand, Librarian, Am. Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf, Washington, D. C. Dear Sir:

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In reply to yours of Nov. 9th my interest in the Graphophone began just before the organization of the American Graphophone Company in 1887. I was one of a number of shorthand reporters whose especial effort it was to convince the men in charge of the Volta Laboratory that the graphophone, in its early development, was ready for practical use. Prof. Tainter who was active and influential in the work did not feel that the machine was ready to be put on the market and was desirous of bringing it to a higher state of perfection. Mr. Andrew Devine and Mr. John H. White both of whom were reporters of debates in the House of Representatives and Mr. James O. Clephane who had been a shorthand writer invited a number of Washington stenographers to test the machine and to record on the machine their judgment of its efficiency. Mr. Edward V. Murphy one of the reporters of debates in the United States Senate took part in the test. We were all of the opinion that the machine was ready for the market; and soon thereafter the American

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Graphophone Company was organized and steps taken to manufacture. Messrs. Devine, White and Clephane are dead.

I remember an interesting article on the subject published in Harper's Weekly about that time; but cannot now give you the exact date. There were numerous other publications none however to which I can refer you before 1887; many thereafter.

The original plan of presenting the Graphophone to the public was as a substitute for the shorthand amanuensis; but as the public found music could be 2 satisfactorily recorded and reproduced a large business was developed along that line.

My own part in the work was to organize and develop the Manufacturing and Sales Departments, to indicate to inventors what was needed in the way of improvement and to stimulate achievements in that direction.

Please let me know if I can be of any further service.

Yours very truly, D Easton EDE-H